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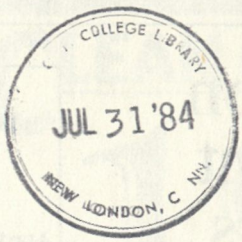

Conn. Documents

Citizens' Bulletin

Volume 11 Number 11 July/August 1984 $5/yr.
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

184 Ways...

Citizens' Bulletin

July/August 1984
Volume 11 Number 11 $5/yr.
Cover Photo: File Photos

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DEP Citizens' Bulletin
(USPS 041-570)

Published eleven times a year by the Department of Environmental Protection. Yearly subscription $5.00; two years, $9.00. 2nd class postage paid at Hartford, Connecticut. Funds are also provided through a federal grant from the Office of Coastal Zone Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Please forward any address change immediately.

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Attention Pheasant Hunters

Although you may have taken your last shot at a ringneck for this season, it's not too early to start planning for next season. If you are among those hunters who got caught up in the processing delay for pheasant tags last season, pay special attention to the changes in the application process that will be in effect for the 1984 season. It is hoped that these changes will help to eliminate some of the confusion and inconvenience that resulted from the rush of applications received so close to opening day last year.

Pheasant hunters will be able to purchase the $5.00 tag series in person at three locations. The Licensing Unit in Hartford is now accepting applications by mail and will guarantee delivery of tags for opening day providing one applies before September 1st.

WHEN, HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY

*Before September 1 -- by mail
*June 1 through September 1 or October 22 through season end -- in person.

D.E.P. Licensing Unit
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

*Starting September 1 -- in person.

D.E.P. Eastern Dist. H.Q.
209 Hebron Road
Marlborough, CT 06447

D.E.P. Western Dist. H.Q.
RFD #1, Plymouth Road
Harwinton, CT 06791

Application forms from last year can still be used and should be available at most town clerk's offices and issuing agents. An additional supply of forms has been sent to all licensing agents. ■

Caution!

The instructions in the April 1984 issue of the CB for building a smoker need a note of caution. Fifty-gallon drums are commonly used to store hazardous/toxic substances such as cyanide, solvents, pesticides, etc. Therefore, it is recommended by the DEP's Hazardous Materials Unit that sheet metal be used in place of the drum.

Summer music

Move over Tanglewood! Now New England has another program of classical music under the stars. Harkness Memorial State Park in Waterford is the site of a new summer music festival.

The concert series, produced by Summer Music, Inc. of New London, got under way on June 30 with a performance by the Tokyo String Quartet. The rest of the program includes an All-Baroque Evening on July 14; pianist Richard Goode and the New World String Quartet on July 21; and the Harkness Festival Chamber Orchestra on July 28. All concerts begin at 8:30 p.m.

Harkness Memorial State Park is the former summer estate of the Edward S. Harkness family, and is the ideal place for outdoor concerts. The mansion is surrounded by elegant gardens and a lush lawn that sweeps down to Long Island Sound. People arriving early can stroll the grounds or enjoy a picnic.

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CLEAN UP YOUR ACT

184

W · A · Y · S

TO HELP CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND REDUCE POLLUTION

How can one person help to clean up our environment? There are literally hundreds of ways you can reduce the resources you waste and the pollution you, directly or indirectly, generate. We offer only 184 here. Some call for changes of habits. Some require investments in resource-conserving equipment. Some can be accomplished with only small modifications to existing fixtures or appliances. They're not all for everyone, but anybody ought to be able to find some that apply. Try a few, then a few more.

Water & Household Chores

Water conservation measures can reduce the amount of lost and wasted water in the home. Careful water use habits can help to reduce household water and energy costs. In many cases, with minor adjustments of equipment, water savings can also be achieved inexpensively without user habit changes.

Save Water In The Bathroom

TOILETS: Conventional toilets use four to seven gallons per flush. Studies have proved that only three and one-half gallons are needed to effectively get rid of wastes. Tank inserts can reduce the amount of water used by a conventional toilet. A few common methods are:

1. Plastic bottles: Use one-quart bottles. Cut top of bottle off at neck. Place rocks in bottom of bottle to anchor securely, and fill with water. Place in tank. Make sure bottles aren't too close to fixtures inside toilet. Inexpensive, and no user habit change is required.
2. Plastic dams: These can be used to block off a section of tank.
3. Float: Bend the arm connecting the float to the switch slightly. This causes water to shut off sooner than it usually would, saving water.
4. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket -- use appropriate garbage can, ash tray, etc., to dispose of tissues, cigarettes, and the like.
5. Check that water valve in tank closes after toilet is flushed.
6. When replacing toilet fixtures, install a water-conserving model, which can save significant amounts of water and is about the same price as a conventional toilet.
7. A few drops of food coloring added to the toilet tank can help detect leaks. If dye shows up in the bowl, there is a leak which needs to be fixed.

S A V I N G
WATER

Save In The Shower Or Bath

8. Keep showers short. Try wetting down, soaping up, then turning on shower to rinse.
9. Insert flow reducing devices on conventional shower heads. This is an inexpensive way to save on water and water heating costs. No user habit change is required, and device is easy to install. OR,
10. Install a low-flow shower head. These are relatively inexpensive, easy to install, and can result in substantial savings.
11. Fill the tub one-quarter full for baths.
12. Put several small children in the tub or shower together (saves time too!).
13. Check to make sure faucets are shut off tightly after use.

Illustrations & Layout by Jane Rainwater

S A V I N G WATER

Save At The Sink

14. Don't leave water running while washing up, brushing teeth, or shaving.
15. Fill sink, rather than running water, for shaving.
16. Turn faucets off tightly when not in use.
17. Install faucet control devices to reduce the amount of water emitted, OR
18. Install a faucet aerator. This device combines air with the water, which helps reduce the amount of water that is used.
19. Check for leaks and drips. Replacing an inexpensive washer in a dripping faucet can result in substantial water savings.

Save Water In The Kitchen

In addition to the tips for sinks and faucets above, the following can help reduce the amount of water used in the kitchen:

20. Thaw foods ahead of time or in a pan of water instead of quick thawing under hot running water.
21. Remove ice trays a few minutes before you plan to use them to avoid running them under water to loosen ice.
22. Use a minimum of water when cooking vegetables, and keep pans covered to reduce the loss of steam. (Often remaining water can be used as soup stock -- it's very high in vitamins.)
23. Use garbage disposal only for necessary items, and use cold water. Better yet, compost organic materials!
24. If dishes have to be rinsed before going into dishwasher, do it in a filled sink or dishpan of water.
25. When hand washing dishes, rinse by pouring hot water over dishes in drainer rather than rinsing under running faucet.
26. Run dishwasher only when it's full.
27. Keep cold drinking water in refrigerator instead of letting water run for cold drinks.
28. Rinse vegetables in a dishpan and water house plants or garden with rinse water.

Save Water In The Laundry

29. Run washing machine only when there's a full load of clothes.
30. Accumulate laundry for hand-washing rather than doing items one by one.
31. Use suds saver on your machine if there is one, or consider buying a machine with this device or variable load size options.
32. Use cold or warm, rather than hot, water for delicate or not-too-dirty wash loads. See laundry product containers for specific recommendations. Many detergents work better in cold water!
33. Turn off water valves to machine when not in use. (In case of freezing or bursting pipes, laundry facility will not flood.)

Other Water Savers

34. When buying or replacing household plumbing fixtures and appliances consider water-saving models available. These include water-saving toilets, faucets, shower heads, sinks and tubs, dishwashers, clothes washers, lawn sprinkler systems, and hose attachments, among other things. Many are in the same price range as conventional models, and they can result in significant water and energy savings in the long run.
35. Cover swimming pools to avoid excessive evaporation during the summer months.
36. Sweep walks and driveways rather than hosing off dirt and debris.
37. Water lawns in early morning or early evening to avoid evaporation.
38. Don't overwater your lawn! Give the water time to sink into the ground. If water has a chance to be absorbed, deeper roots develop, decreasing the need for water as well as increasing the lawn's resistance to disease and wear.
39. Raise blade on lawn mower to cut grass 1-1/2 inches high to provide shade for roots and help reduce water loss.
40. Know what kind of soil you have and how deep it is. This knowledge should aid your efforts to determine how long you should water and how often. Adding compost (decomposed organic materials) to your soil is a good way to help improve infiltration and water retention by the soil.
41. Pull weeds from gardens and lawns -- they compete with other plants for the water that is available.
42. Use selective landscape design. Choose plants that are native to the area and drought resistant or tolerant of dry soils. Consult your local nursery or Cooperative Extension Service for more specifics.
43. A layer of mulch around plants, trees, and shrubs can keep the soil cool, greatly reduce moisture loss through evaporation, arrest weak growth, and aid air and moisture penetration of the soil.
44. Water during off-peak use hours.
45. Wash car with a bucket of water and sponge rather than letting hose run.
46. Report open fire hydrants to the local fire department. Hydrants are often opened illegally during summer months for recreational purposes.

Save Energy On Water Heating

Remember, less oil or gas burned means less air pollution as well as lower heating bills:

47. Keep your water heater temperature at 125 degrees F. or less. Keeping it above that temperature wastes energy, and money.
48. Insulate your hot water heater to help reduce heat loss.
49. When leaving home for an extended period of time set the water heater at "pilot" or "off" position. (During winter leave it on just high enough to prevent freezing of pipes.)
50. Drain a few gallons from the bottom of the water heater to remove sediment. This improves the heating process.
51. When purchasing a new hot water heater, consider an energy efficient model. New federal Energy Efficiency Ratings will help in comparing energy usage. Avoid purchasing a tank with a capacity that exceeds your needs.
52. Pipe insulation placed around hot water lines maintains higher water temperatures which in turn reduces water wasted while waiting for hot water to arrive.

Save Energy All Over The House

By using less electrical energy you'll reduce the amount of oil that power plants use to produce electricity, thereby reducing emissions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides from these plants. In the atmosphere these pollutants react to form acids which fall back to earth as acid deposition or "acid rain." So:

53. Turn off lights when not using rooms.
54. Pass up appliances with energy-wasting features.
55. Have an energy audit by your utility company.
56. Service air conditioning systems regularly.
57. Landscape for shade in summer and winter wind protection.
58. Check oven thermostat to see if it's accurate. When baking, cook several dishes together in the oven.
59. Don't preheat the oven too long (five to eight minutes is sufficient).
60. Microwave ovens can be more efficient than conventional ovens, and none of the testing done by the DEP has found any significant problems with radiation from these ovens.
61. Keep refrigerators and freezers full and they won't have to work so hard. Plastic milk jugs filled with water can take up empty space.
62. Be sure refrigerator gaskets are tight.
63. Open refrigerator or freezer doors no more than necessary.
64. Defrost frequently.
65. For most efficient energy use, keep power tools in good repair -- sharpen them when necessary.
66. Try not to use appliances during peak use hours of late afternoon and early evening.
67. Consider operating costs when buying tools and appliances.
68. Regularly clean or replace filters -- on your air conditioners, clothes dryers, etc.
69. Run a full load in the clothes dryer -- but don't overload it. Dry similar weight items together for greatest efficiency. Dry several loads consecutively. Better yet, hang the laundry to dry.
70. Don't buy a larger or more powerful appliance than you need. Forego unneccessary and exotic appliances.
71. Read appliance manufacturers' instructions on how to use their products most efficiently.
72. Many utility companies offer tips on efficient use of appliances. Take advantage of the availability of these suggestions.
73. Close off unused rooms to save on heat as well as air conditioning.
74. Close dampers in fire places.

Heating: Save Energy & The Environment

Try to minimize adverse impacts and increase the efficiency of your furnaces, wood stoves, and coal stoves. Among other things:

75. Have residential heating equipment serviced and cleaned regularly (for more efficient fuel use and reduction of smoke and carbon dioxide pollution).
76. Turn down heat; wear more clothes instead.
77. Turn heat way down overnight and when you're away from home.
78. Insulate, add weather stripping, install storm windows and doors.
79. Use window shades, draperies, and awnings for their insulating value -- on hot summer days as well as cold winter nights. For even greater insulation try devices like quilted window shades.
80. Use heat and air-conditioning as little as possible.
81. If you use a wood stove, be sure to burn wood seasoned for six months to one year at a minimum.
82. Don't burn woods that have been painted, varnished, or otherwise chemically treated (including plywoods) in

HINTS

SAVE and the ENERGY ENVIRONMENT

your wood or coal stove or fireplace.

83. Don't burn plastic, trash, or garbage in your wood stove.

84. In coal stoves, burn anthracite coal with the lowest possible sulfur, ash, and moisture contents.

85. Consider adding a catalytic converter when buying a coal or wood stove or retrofitting stoves you already own.

86. Complete combustion, which produces fewer pollutants, requires sufficient fuel, air, heat, and time. Select a well designed wood or coal stove as well as one of the proper size for the area to be heated.

87. For more information on cleaner wood or coal burning, request pamphlets on efficient wood and coal stove use from DEP's Air Compliance Unit, 566-7102.

88. Use smoke alarms, either the ionization type or the photo-electric type. Radiation risks caused by ionization type detectors are minute and are far outweighed by the life-saving benefits of an early alert to smoke or fire in the home.

Operate Your Car To Save Energy & The Air

89. Don't buy "more car" than you need. A car with better gas mileage saves you money and contributes less to the pollution of our air.

90. Maintain your car to manufacturer's specifications to save fuel and prevent air pollution. Have it tuned up regularly and have air pollution control devices checked periodically.

91. Radial tires and adequate tire pressure both increase gas mileage.

92. Don't haul a lot of extra weight around in the car. Store heavy tools and sporting equipment rather than carrying them around when you're not actually going to use them.

93. Wash and wax your car to lengthen its body life.

94. Walk more. Bicycle. Ride the bus.

95. Share rides, car pool, or van pool; call 566-2690 for ride sharing information.

96. Plan your errands to cut out extra trips.

97. Don't let car idle for over a minute.

98. Right turn on red is one of the State's air pollution control strategies to reduce emissions of carbon monoxide from vehicles idling at intersections. If traffic permits, take your right turn.

99. Remember your car's annual emissions test -- to make sure your car is running efficiently and not emitting unnecessary pollution.

100. Report air quality violations -- either visible emissions or odors -- to the DEP, 566-3160.

101. Look for daily air quality reports in newspapers and during television news broadcasts. Take health precautions and drive your automobile less during the high pollution days of summer.

Conserve Resources & Save Landfill Space

Throw away less:

102. Buy durable items; select items, such as appliances, that can be repaired or recycled.

103. Avoid excess packaging.

104. Support community recycling programs for paper, scrap metal, glass containers, cans, waste oil, etc.

105. Set up and/or support recycling efforts in your office, apartment complex, or business.

106. Use reusable products such as sponges, rags, cloth napkins, cloth diapers, and string shopping bags instead of disposables such as paper towels, napkins, diapers, and bags.

107. Substitute reusable containers for plastic wraps, foils, and plastic bags.

108. Buy in as large quantities as practical to reduce packaging.

109. Buy more fresh (and usually less packaged) food.

110. Whenever possible, buy products made of recycled materials or packaged in recycled materials.

111. Your local library or school may be grateful to receive old books and magazines. Other institutions such as hospitals, homes for the elderly, etc., may appreciate them too.

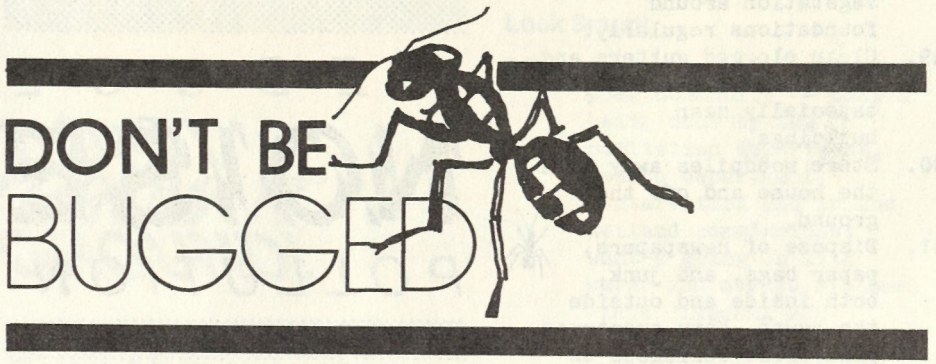
112. Used clothing, household goods, and furniture are needed by numerous programs such as Goodwill

Industries and the Salvation Army.

113. Try having a tag sale or placing a want ad!
114. Don't throw away household products you don't like, want or need. Give them to someone who will appreciate and use them.
115. Garbage, grass clippings other organic waste products can go into a compost heap. Composting is easy and a better environmental choice than using chemical fertilizers.

Cut Back On Chemicals

116. Try using more elbow grease and natural products and fewer chemical products.
117. Call the DEP, at 566-3489, for more information on alternatives to hazardous products as well as for the best ways of disposing of hazardous materials.
118. Clean sooner, while a milder, safer, innocuous or less toxic product can do the job, rather than waiting till you need "industrial strength."
119. Watch what you pour down the drain -- for the sake of septic system, water supply, and plumbing.
120. Pre-soaking for an hour in your regular laundry detergent -- and applying a paste of detergent and water to greasy collars and cuffs -- may be just as satisfactory as using commercial laundry degreasers, and it's environmentally safer.
121. Around the house, when possible substitute products that are non-toxic or at least less hazardous. (Some of the better books available on house cleaning recommend non-toxic or at least less toxic alternatives like vinegar, baking soda, bleach, ammonia, etc., for varieties of household uses, as well as some low cost mixtures you can make at home.)
122. Cleaners, detergents, etc. -- don't use too much! Follow manufacturer's instructions. Use only what's needed to do the job. Twice the amount doesn't necessarily do the job twice as well.
123. Cleaning products -- maybe you don't need so many. It's easier to keep track of and know the components and qualities of a limited selection of multi-purpose cleaners. (It also saves space, money, and surprises.)
124. Read labels -- especially the cautions -- before buying household products. (Maybe you'll change your mind about using them!)
125. Always read labels before you use something.
126. Read the labels again before you dispose of residues and containers.
127. Before buying other household goods -- furnishings, appliances, etc. -- consider whether they'll require any special or especially hazardous cleaning.



Don't Be Bugged

Reduce your use of chemicals in rodenticides, fungicides, and insecticides as well as cleaning products. You can get undesirable creatures to bug off in several ways:

Cultivate Predators

128. Lady bugs, spiders, toads, garter snakes, and many birds eat a variety of pest species. Don't destroy these predators.
129. Maintain plants that offer good predatory creatures shelter.
130. Provide bird houses and nesting boxes. Consult DEP Wildlife Unit for instructions -- 566-4683.
131. Select a house cat who's interested in rodent control.

Bugs: Try Squashing or Washing

Try physical controls... squash & wash approaches to insect control include:

132. Hand pick larger pests off house or garden plants.
133. Hose or rinse plants off with a spray of water. A schedule of regular washing is especially good for indoor plants.
134. Control visible insects with dabs of alcohol, oil, etc. (Consult a good plant book for specific recommendations.)
135. Comb and brush dogs and cats and vacuum clean pet areas to control fleas.

Use Physical Controls Against Pests

Keep insects and rodents outside the house in the first place:

136. Use well fitting screens.
137. Make a habit of closing doors, particularly cellar doors, and remind family members to do so.
138. Clean out shrubbery and

vegetation around foundations regularly.

139. Clean clogged gutters and provide good drainage, especially near buildings.
140. Store woodpiles away from the house and off the ground.
141. Dispose of newspapers, paper bags, and junk, both inside and outside the house. Many creatures find these delicious as well as cozy!
142. Inside, eliminate places where bugs and rodents can hide and nest. Fill cracks around shelves, cupboards, sinks and bathtubs with putty, cauking compound, or paint.



Don't Be A Gracious Host To Bugs Or Rodents

Make sure your house is not hospitable to insects and other pests:

143. Eliminate damp areas.
144. Repair dripping faucets and leaky pipes (<u>also saves water</u>!).
145. If there is condensation on pipes, insulate them or provide ventilation.
146. Cut off pests' food supplies. Store foods in tight glass, plastic, or metal containers or in the refrigerator.
147. Don't leave foods uncovered.
148. Don't leave dirty dishes around.
149. Use tight fitting garbage can lids.
150. Sweep or vacuum crumb-covered floors.
151. In the garden, choose insect (as well as drought) resistant plants.
152. Mix plants and crops, including some of the plants that repel pests.
153. Time plantings to avoid peak feeding stages of common pests.

Information on common insects is available from University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Service offices, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, and the Experiment Station in Storrs.





154. Clean up stagnant water areas where mosquitos might breed.
155. If all else fails, identify the pest so you can select a species specific (narrowest spectrum) control.
156. Choose biological controls over chemicals, baits over sprays.

REDUCE NOISE POLLUTION

Reduce Noise Pollution

157. Caulking or sealing cracks or holes, along with adding weather stripping, storm windows, or drapes -- all of which are energy savers -- can also cut noise pollution.
158. Consider acoustical tile on ceilings.
159. Use foam pads under typewriters, mixers, blenders, other small appliances.
160. Carpeting and carpet pads reduce noise. So does thick linoleum or floor vinyl.
161. Use vibration mounts under appliances such as washers, dryers, dishwashers, fans, and pumps.
162. Try to buy quiet (as well as energy efficient and water saving!) appliances. And maintain them to maintain the silence.
163. Consider neighbors when you operate tools and appliances, stereos and musical instruments.

Don't Treat Your Land Like Dirt

164. Control erosion. Consult your county Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance with soil erosion problems on your property.
165. Don't apply hard surfaces on outdoor areas where there are good alternatives like plantings or gravel.
166. Be aware of regulations concerning wetlands and watercourses before getting involved in construction and similar activities in these areas.
167. Plant trees and shrubs for erosion control as well as to attract birds and wildlife.
168. DEP's Bureau of Forestry can offer recommendations for managing woodlands. Call 566-5348.

Watch Your Septic Tanks

169. Research has shown no evidence that septic system additives have any real value, and some of these products have been shown to cause ground water contamination. The Department of Environmental Protection does not recommend the use of any of these additives.
170. Septic tanks do need pumping out every several years.
171. Don't discharge salt brine from water softeners to septic systems.

Fuel Storage: Look For Leaks!

172. Check underground and above-ground fuel storage tanks for leaks.
173. Consider replacing in-ground fuel tanks, which are susceptible to leaks after some years of use, with above-ground or basement tanks.

Don't Throw It On The Ground

174. Don't dump things on the ground, near your well, "out behind the garage," in the corner of the lot, around the house foundation, on the driveway, down storm drains, or into plumbing leading to your septic system. "Don't dump" materials include waste oil, anti-freeze, paint strippers, paints, thinners and brush cleaners, degunkers, degreasers, photo chemicals, and water softener backwash.
175. Don't dispose of large amounts of vegetable trimmings, ground garbage, coffee grounds, fats and greases, acids, disinfectants, sanitary products, medicines, paint, paint thinners, or other chemicals in your septic system.
176. Be sure fertilizers are worked into the soil well so they won't wash off into streams and rivers.

Preserve & Protect Natural Resources

177. Birds -- if you start feeding them, don't stop in mid-winter.

178. Deer -- do our deer herd a big favor, leash your dog!
179. Don't buy products made from skins or furs of endangered species.
180. Visit nearby attractions and save gas. (Call DEP Information and Education Unit, 566-3489, DEP Bureau of Parks and Recreation, 566-2304, or the Department of Economic Development, 1-800-842-7492, for suggestions.)
181. Be careful with matches and cigarettes in the woods -- don't start a forest fire!
182. Don't litter.

Look Smart!

183. Know what's going on in your community -- what's being done by the sanitation department, health department, conservation and inland wetland commissions; what's going on with water and sewage systems, waste disposal and resources recovery systems, and landfills and recycling programs. Know the laws, and report violations.
184. Support local ordinances to control pollution and tax structures that foster environmental protection.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

For more information contact:
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 [203] 566-3489

Trailside Botanizing

Roadside rambles

Text by G. Winston Carter, Illustrations by Rosemary Gutbrod

I have a favorite country roadside that I have visited and studied on many occasions because of the wide variety of botanical species and differing habitats to be found there. This particular road dips and curves quite a bit which tends to set you wondering what is around the next bend. At frequent intervals a new type of habitat, such as a field or swamp, presents itself as it adjoins the road. There is a farm that is being worked and a field that is separated from the road by a wooden fence. There are a number of estates that are being managed in various ways. Lines of locust trees and occasional apple and cherry trees offer beauty, particularly when in flower. A solid stand of hemlocks is a point of interest in a valley. An outcropping of granite restricts the growth of vegetation on the side of the road in one spot, but it has many primitive plants growing on or around it. This is useful in demonstrating how primitive plants get started on bare rock . . . an example of primary succession. Almost directly opposite is the farmer's field that was mentioned earlier. Here the field represents secondary succession . . . how growth of plants develops after having been interfered with by man because of mowing, as opposed to the situation on bare rock where growth has occurred without any interference by man.

The apple trees and cherry trees indicate past agricultural activity in the area. Cherries represent pioneer shrubs or trees that grow up along roadsides after cutting has been done. The apples were probably planted. The locust trees are another pioneer species which indicate past cutting or clearing.

The roadside itself throughout its length of about two miles shows evidence of a different kind of management . . . constant mowing. This sometimes makes it necessary for me to look further afield; to what lies slightly further back from the roadside, to what can be seen on the other side of a fence. The environment here varies from swamp to woods to fields.

A roadside offers botanical interest of one kind or another throughout the year. Each season brings a focus on different groups of plants. During the summer months it's the wide variety of alien plants that we often call weeds that are on stage. We will be taking a closer look at a few of these and discussing them in some detail. They are often found growing along the road because they do not have the same competition there as on other sites. Many of them have interesting adaptations, folklore and uses.

One of the most beautiful of these roadside aliens is Queen Anne's lace (Daucus carota). It is a wild form from which the common garden carrot developed. Scraping the root or crushing a leaf will release the carrot odor.

The white, flat-topped umbel is composed of many small florets, or individual flowers. The outer florets are larger but sterile. They serve as guides for insects. The center of the umbel often contains a single deep-purple floret. This may help to direct the attention of visiting insects. It is sometimes said that this is where Queen Anne pricked her finger when making lace. The flower blooms from May to October and opens or closes according to the amount of moisture in the air. Before the flower blooms and after it has gone to seed, it becomes hollow in the center and resembles a bird's nest. The spiny seeds resemble jewels if you look at them under a hand lens.

The common name can be traced to Queen Anne, wife of James I. It was fashionable at the time for the queen and ladies of the royal circle to decorate their hair with the lacy autumn leaves. It is not unlikely that the flowers were used in the same way.

The seeds were used as seasoning for soups and stews and when mixed with honey were used in treating coughs. The root was eaten by Indians but too

much of it turned the skin yellow. This led them to believe that it would be helpful in treating liver ailments.

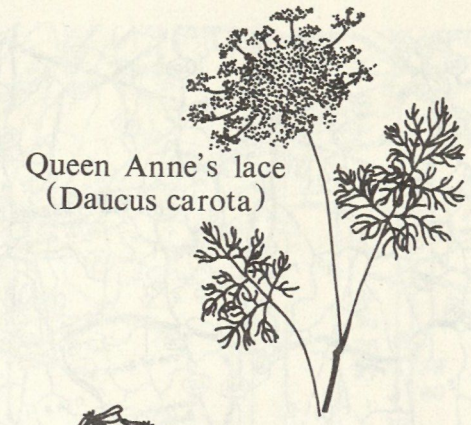
Bouncing Bet (Saponaria officinalis), another alien which has had a lot of uses historically, was brought to America in the 17th century and was planted in the gardens of the early settlers. It escaped and has become naturalized.

This perennial blooms from July to October. The flower is usually pale pink, but it is occasionally rose colored. It has a slight fragrance which may be more noticeable toward night. Because of this fragrance, the petals are sometimes dried and used in pot pourri mixtures.

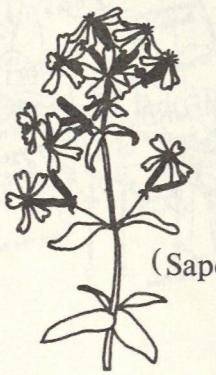
The name bouncing Bet alludes to the inflated calyx and scalloped petals of the flower which was thought to resemble the rear view of a washerwoman. This association may have been made because another common name for bouncing Bet is soapwort and its generic name, sapon, is the Latin for soap. The leaves, stem and root all contain saponins. These are compounds which are capable of producing a soap lather when agitated in water. The plant has a long history of being used as a cleaning agent. This started well before the invention of soap.

Bouncing Bet is still used in some parts of the world to restore color and sheen to fragile textiles, old china, precious glass and for the cleaning of oriental rugs. Medically, it has been used as an antiseptic for treating wounds, poison ivy rash and other skin disorders.

The rather small yellow flower of celandine (Chelidonium majus), an alien which is a member of the poppy family, blossoms from April to September. It was once believed that flowering began with the arrival of swallows and ended with their departure. The flower appears in



Queen Anne's lace
(Daucus carota)



bouncing Bet
(Saponaria officinalis)

Celandine
(Chelidonium majus)

White campion
(Lychnis alba)

Chicory
(Cichorium intybus)

clusters developing from the axils of the leaves on thin yellow stalks. Its two sepals fall off at the time of blossoming giving the impression that they were never present. The plant is somewhat hairy with compound leaves which are deeply lobed.

Its generic name, Chelidon, is derived from a Greek word meaning "swallow." Originally, celandine was brought to the United States by early New England settlers. They valued it for its medicinal qualities and planted it in their gardens. It has since escaped and become naturalized.

The leaves, stem and root of celandine produce a yellow juice. An early scientist believed that swallows bathe the eyes of their young in the juice to improve their eyesight. This may have led to its many uses historically. It was reputed to be useful in removing corns, warts and freckles and in curing sore eyes. It is also thought to be helpful in the treatment of liver disorders because of the resemblance of its juice to bile.

Evening lychnis, or white campion, (Lychnis alba) often grows side by side with bouncing Bet. The generic name of this plant was derived from the Greek word "lychnos" which means lamp. The name was probably inspired by one of the brightly colored species such as scarlet lychnis or maltese cross (Lychnis chalcedonia), which is a European species.

Just under the petals the five sepals unite to form another lamp-shaped feature, the calyx. The flower of evening lychnis is white but may occasionally be pink. It has five deeply-notched petals which may appear to be more. The flower blossoms at night and is very fragrant. It attracts moths that pollinate the flower. The blossom usually opens in the evening and is closed by the next day. The blossoming time is from July to October.

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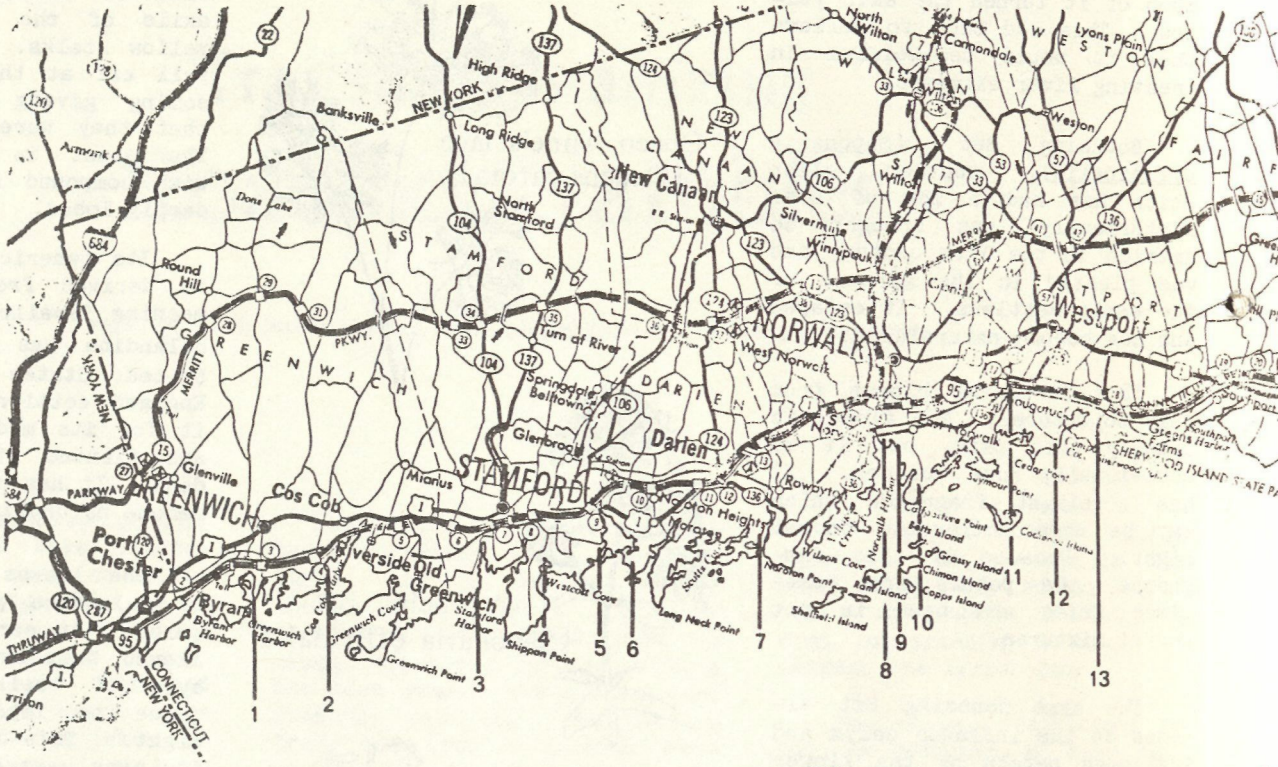

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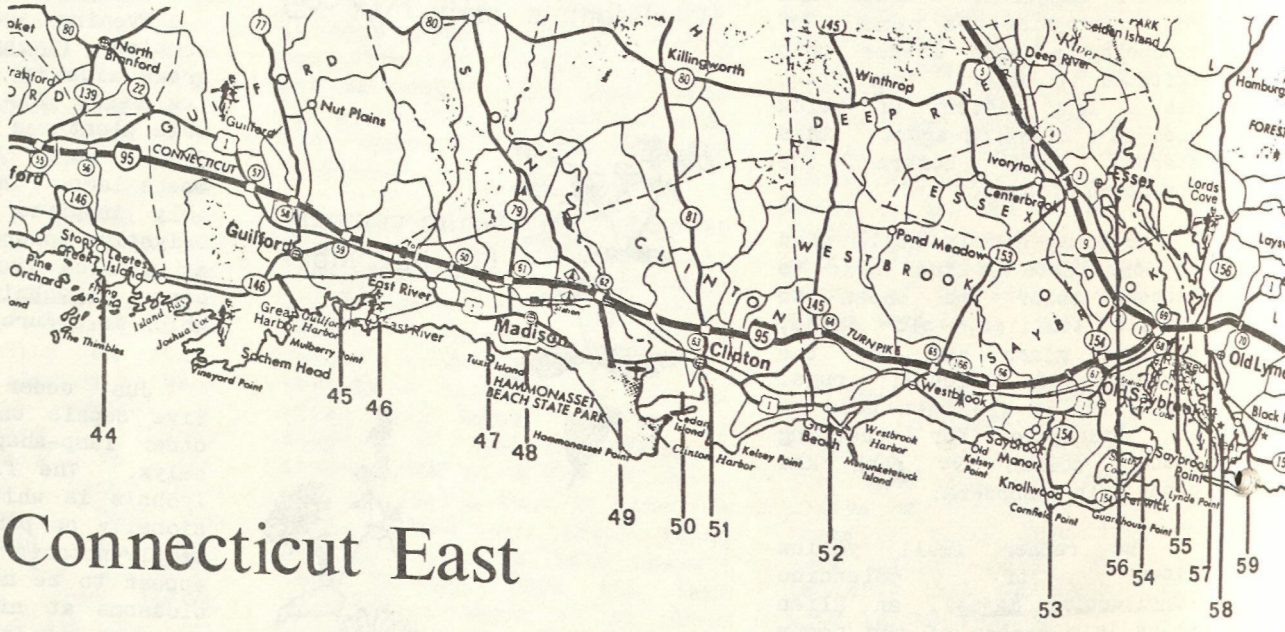

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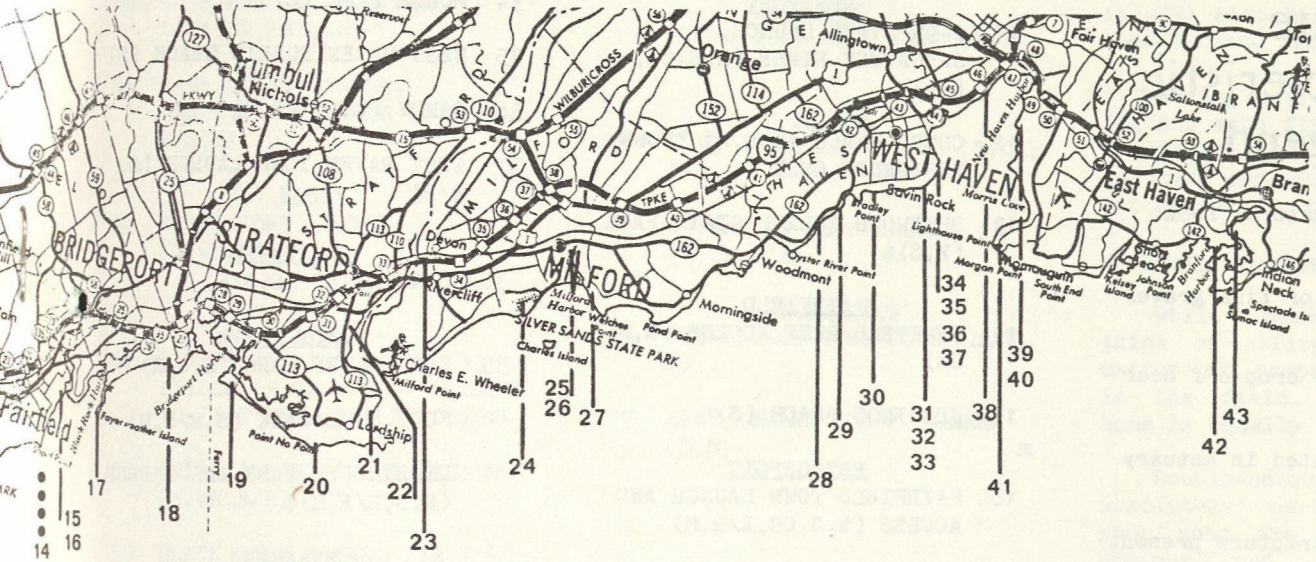

Connecticut West

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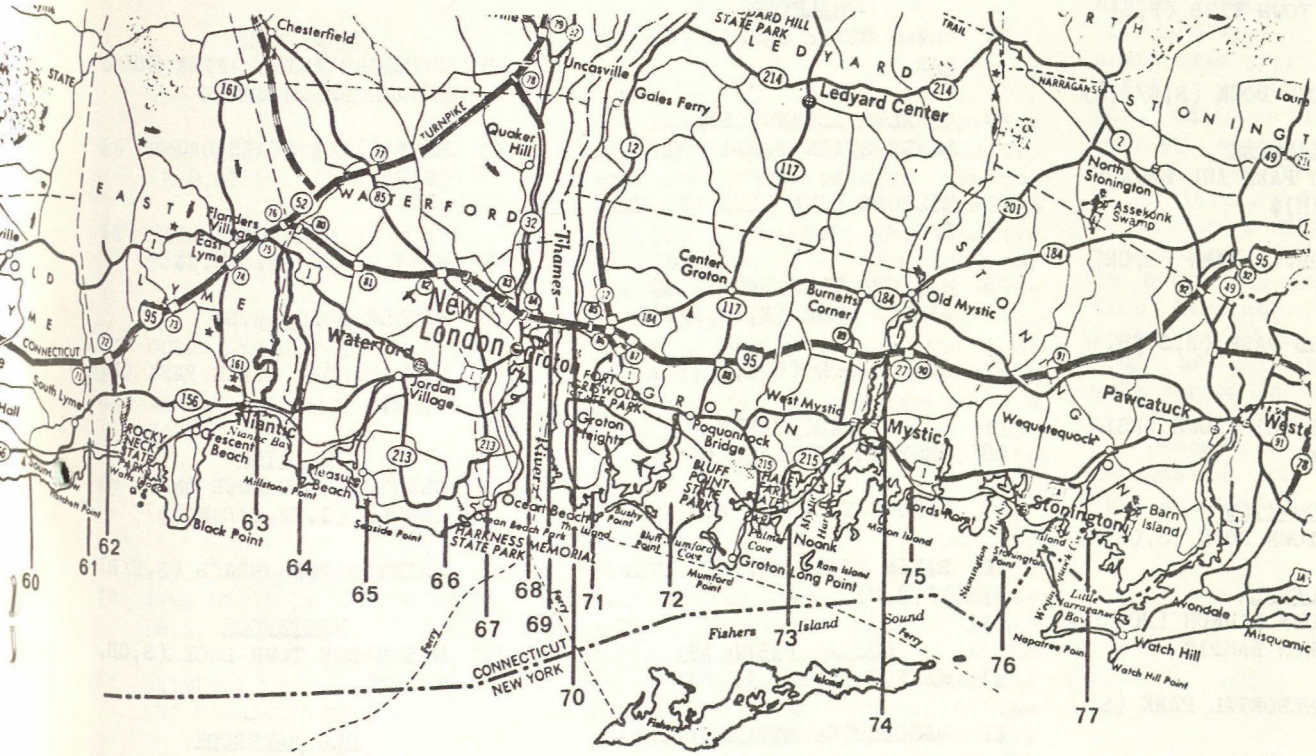
site listings and legend.)



Site Characteristic Legend

R-Boulders, natural rock structure.

S-Sand, mud, or fine gravel bottom.

CH-Channel or drop off near site.

E/R-Site located in estuary or river.

M-Man made structure present such as docks, jetties, pilings, etc.

$-Seasonal daily fee.

*-Residents only.

•-Reef

Connecticut West

GREENWICH

1 GREENWICH TOWN PIER (R,S, CH,E/R,M)

2 COS COB TOWN DOCK (S,E/R,M)

STAMFORD

3 SOUTHFIELD PARK AND LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R,M)$

4 CUMMINGS BEACH PARK (S,CH, M)$

5 COVE ISLAND PARK (R,S,CH, M)$

6 WEED BEACH (S) *TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY

ROWAYTON

7 ROWAYTON TOWN DOCK (S,CH,M)

NORWALK

8 NORWALK TOWN LAUNCH (NO FISHING FROM RAMP)$

9 VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (S, CH,M)

10 CALF PASTURE POINT (S,M)$

WESTPORT

11 I-95 STATE LAUNCH, SAUGATUCK RIVER (R,S,CH, E/R)

12 COMPO BEACH (R,S,M) *TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY

13 SHERWOOD ISLAND STATE PARK (R,S)$

FAIRFIELD

14 PENFIELD REEF ACCESS (R,S, CH)

15 JENNINGS BEACH (S)

BRIDGEPORT

16 FAIRFIELD TOWN LAUNCH AND ACCESS (R,S,CH,E/R,M)

17 FAYERWEATHER ISLAND (R,S, CH,M)$

18 SEASIDE PARK (S,M)$

19 PLEASURE BEACH PARK (S,CH,E/R,M)

STRATFORD

20 LONG BEACH (S)

21 SHORT BEACH (S)

22 STRATFORD TOWN DOCK AND LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R,M)

MILFORD

23 DEVON STATE LAUNCH (R,S,CH, E/R,M)

24 CHARLES ISLAND (SILVER SANDS STATE PARK) (R,S,M)

25 MILFORD TOWN PIER (S,CH, E/R,M)

26 MILFORD TOWN LAUNCH AT WILCOX PARK (S,CH,E/R)$

27 GULF BEACH (R,S,CH,E/R,M)

WEST HAVEN

28 WEST SHORE BEACH (S,M)

29 PROSPECT BEACH (S,M)

30 SAVIN ROCK, BRADLEY POINT (R,S,M)

PUBLIC PIERS AT:

31 PALACE STREET (S,M)

32 WASHINGTON STREET (S,M)

33 BEACH STREET (S,M)

34 MORSE PARK (S)

35 WEST HAVEN PUBLIC BEACH (S)

36 SANDY POINT (S,M)

37 WEST HAVEN TOWN LAUNCH (S, E/R)

NEW HAVEN

38 LONG WHARF (S,E/R)

EAST HAVEN

39 EAST SHORE PARK (S,E/R)

40 FORT HALE PARK (S,E/R,M)

41 LIGHTHOUSE PARK AND LAUNCH (R,S,E/R,M)$

BRANFORD

42 BRANFORD POINT PIER (R,S, CH,E/R,M)

43 BRANFORD STATE LAUNCH (S, CH,E/R,M)

Connecticut East

STONY CREEK

44 STONY CREEK TOWN DOCK (S, M)

GUILFORD

45 GUILFORD TOWN MARINA AND LAUNCH (S,CH,E/M)

46 EAST RIVER STATE LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R)

MADISON

47 WEST WHARF (R,S,M,)$

48 MIDDLE ROAD (R,S)

49 HAMMONASSET STATE PARK (R, S,M)$

CLINTON

50 CLINTON TOWN DOCK AND LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R,M,)$

51 CLINTON TOWN BEACH (S,E/R)

WESTBROOK

52 WESTBROOK TOWN DOCK (S,CH, E/R,M)

OLD SAYBROOK

53 CORNFIELD POINT (R,S) NO PARKING

54 CAUSEWAY (S,CH,E/R,M) LIMITED PARKING

55 I-95 STATE LAUNCH, CONNECTICUT RIVER (R,S,CH, E/R,M)

ESSEX

56 ESSEX TOWN LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R,M)

LYME

57 LIEUTENANT RIVER, RTE 156 BRIDGE (S,CH,E/R -- UNSAFE TO FISH FROM THE BRIDGE)

58 GREAT ISLAND STATE LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R)

59 BLACK HALL RIVER, RTE 156 BRIDGE (S,CH,E/R) -- UNSAFE TO FISH FROM THE BRIDGE)

60 SOUND VIEW BEACH (S,M)

61 FOUR MILE RIVER STATE LAUNCH (S,CH,E/R)

62 ROCKY NECK STATE PARK (R,S,M)$

NIANTIC

63 MCCOOK'S POINT AND HOLE-IN-THE-WALL BEACH (R,S,M)$

WATERFORD

64 NIANTIC RIVER STATE LAUNCH (NO FISHING FROM RAMP)$

65 DOCK ROAD STATE LAUNCH (R,S,M)

66 HARKNESS MEMORIAL STATE PARK (R,S)$

NEW LONDON

67 OCEAN BEACH PARK (R,S)$

68 NEW LONDON TOWN PIER (S,CH, E/R,M)

69 I-95 STATE LAUNCH, NEW LONDON (R,S,CH,E/R,M)

GROTON

70 I-95 STATE LAUNCH, GROTON (R,S,CH,E/R,M)

71 BAYBERRY LANE STATE LAUNCH (NO FISHING FROM RAMP)

72 BLUFF POINT STATE PARK (R,S,CH,E/R,M)

NOANK

73 NOANK TOWN DOCK (S,CH,E/R, M)

MYSTIC

74 I-95 OVERPASS ACCESS (S,CH, E/R,M)

75 QUIAMBAUG COVE ACCESS (S,CH,E/R)

STONINGTON

76 STONINGTON TOWN DOCK (S,CH, M)

77 BARN ISLAND STATE LAUNCH (S,M) ■

Don't wait to have guns checked, repaired

By the National Shooting Sports Foundation

While firearms have a strong tradition of durability and are often passed from one generation to the next, they do require periodic preventive maintenance, the same as any mechanical device. And now -- not the last week before the hunting season -- is the time to have your guns checked or repaired by the manufacturer, a competent gunsmith or a factory-authorized warranty station.

There are any number of problems that can arise that can render your gun inoperable. Don't be one of those hunters who discovers which problem he has by finding it out when in the field or in the marsh. Remember the corollary to Murphy's Law: Not only will something go wrong if it can, it will also happen at the most inconvenient time and place.

Having a properly functioning and safe firearm is as much a part of good sportsmanship as is good marksmanship and ethical conduct in the field.

Home Firearms Safety Check

While some gunners may think of safety as largely a matter of proper gun handling in the field, safety in the home is equally important.

Double-checking to make absolutely certain that all your guns are unloaded is an obvious and most important first step. Your next step should be to review your firearms storage facilities. Rifles and shotguns should be stored securely in racks or cabinets, preferably locked. Handguns should be stored in a locked cabinet or drawer. Locked storage is particularly important if there are children in the home. If secure storage is not available, trigger locking devices should be used. Your last safety check should involve your ammunition storage. For complete safety, all ammunition should be kept under lock and key in a location separate from your guns. An extra safety measure, particularly with children present, can be had by storing ammunition in another room or on a different floor level. The objective is to create a situation in which a conscious effort is required to bring firearms and ammunition together. All keys to locks should be under the control of a responsible adult well versed in firearms safety.

Remember, firearms safety depends on you. Make no mistake about it. ■

Playing 'possum

Opossums in Connecticut

Wildlife Bureau Information Series

General

The opossum (Didelphis virginiana) is the only member of the order Marsupialia (pouched animals) found in Connecticut. Opossums are non-hibernators, but will usually "hole up" during cold, adverse weather. In Connecticut opossums suffer from frostbite and may be missing the tips of their ears and tails.

The opossum is a medium-sized (15 to 20 inches without its tail), primitive animal with long, coarse, grayish-white fur. Black, brown, and albino opossums have been found, but are very uncommon. They have a sharp-pointed and slender muzzle, prominent thin ears, and short legs. A long (nine to 20 inches), scaly, scantily-haired, prehensile tail enables it to hang from trees for short periods or transport leaves to potential nest sites. Opossums have five toes on each foot. The first toe on each hind foot is a divergent, clawless, thumblike, grasping toe. Both sexes are similar, although males are commonly larger in size.

Opossums' eyes have an orange glow. When frightened, opossums bare their teeth, hiss or growl, and frequently drool saliva. Being non-aggressive, opossums readily retreat to trees, brush piles, or other available cover when pursued by man or predators. A common defense mechanism is feigning death or "playing possum" when cornered. Opossums are also strong swimmers and take to shallow water when necessary.

Leonard Lee Rue III

Mother opossom and seven week old young.

Habits

As a marsupial, the opossum has the most primitive reproductive system of any mammal in North America.

In Connecticut, breeding usually begins in early March. Opossums produce one to two litters each year. The average litter size is nine with the young being born blind and extremely helpless (altricial). The young weigh 0.0046 ounce and are so tiny that nine individuals would fill up half a teaspoon. The blind embryos crawl at least three inches to their mother's pouch, attach themselves to a teat and remain "locked" on to it for approximately 60 days. After 80 days, young opossums leave the pouch and typically can be seen riding around on their mother's back. By 100 days of age they usually are independent. Opossums reach sexual maturity early and may breed during their first year of life.

Opossums inhabit woodland areas along streams, ponds, lakes, swamps, or marshes. Farmland and woodlots are preferred over extensively forested areas.

Shelter is found in abandoned den sites of other animals or cavities in den trees,

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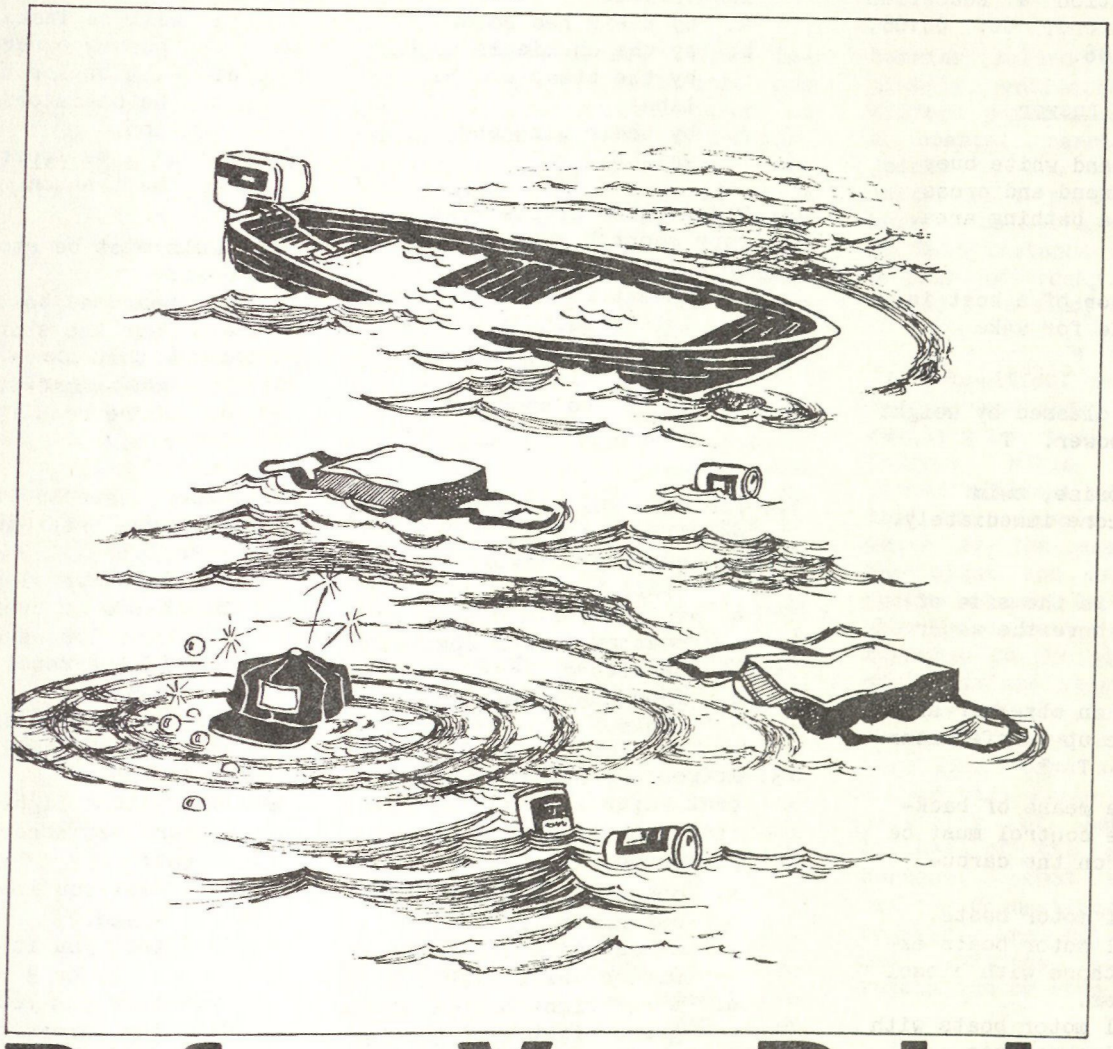
Test your boating i.q.

By Frank Glista, Boating Safety Representative

THINK



Before You Drink

Be A Responsible Boat Operator

Estimates indicate that only 30 percent of the state's boat operators have ever taken a boating course offered by the United States Power Squadron, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary or the American Red Cross.

Take the test that follows to determine if you qualify as a safe skipper. If you cannot correctly answer 25 of the 30 questions you should enroll in a boating class.

For a copy of the answers, boating course information, and a copy of Connecticut Pleasure Boating, write to the Department of Environmental Protection, Information & Education Section, Hartford, Ct. 06106, or call 566-8108.

Circle Correct Answer

1. An orange and white buoy with a diamond and cross indicates a bathing area. T F

2. The operator of a boat is responsible for wake damage. T F

3. Boats are classed by weight and horsepower. T F

4. If you capsize, swim towards shore immediately. T F

5. Freeboard is the side of the boat above the water. T F

6. A driver, an observer and a skier make up a safe water ski team. T F

7. A suitable means of backfire flame control must be installed on the carburetor:
   a. of all motor boats.
   b. of all motor boats except those with diesel engines.
   c. of all motor boats with gasoline engines.
   d. of all motor boats with gasoline engines except those with outboard engines.

8. When caught out in foul weather the first thing to do is to:
   a. give a proper distress signal.
   b. get everyone into a P.F.D.
   c. head directly back to port.
   d. drop the anchor.

9. The various bouyage systems used are based upon:
   a. the intra-coastal waterway systems.
   b. the lateral system.
   c. the uniform state waterway system.
   d. the cardinal system.

10. Coast Guard approved hand fire extinguishers can be identified:
    a. by their red color.
    b. by the chemicals used.
    c. by the stamp on the label.
    d. by their size and weight.

11. Under rules of the road, four short blasts on a horn or whistle means:
    a. intent to turn to port.
    b. intent to turn to starboard.
    c. danger signal.
    d. intent to back out of a slip.

12. Portable fuel tanks should be filled:
    a. quickly to avoid spills.
    b. in the forward part of boat away from engine.
    c. outside of boat.
    d. from other portable tanks.

13. If you are meeting another boat which is under 26 feet in length head on at night you expect to see:
    a. one white light.
    b. one green light.
    c. a red and green light with a white light.
    d. a red light over a green light.

14. The first thing to do when somebody falls overboard is:
    a. yell for help.
    b. speed up the engine and turn back to where the person is in the water.
    c. slow down and turn off the engine.
    d. get something that floats into the water near the person.

15. Returning from seaward, a nun buoy:
    a. marks an obstruction
    b. marks a channel and is solid red.
    c. marks the right side of the channel.
    d. is red with odd numbers.

16. Generally, capacity plates when mounted in a boat:
    a. will be installed by the Coast Guard.
    b. will be installed by the new owner.
    c. will be located near the operator's position.
    d. will be located near the transom.

17. PFD's must be stored in the boat:
    a. near the bow.
    b. near the stern.
    c. within three feet of all non-swimmers.
    d. where readily accessible.

18. Under Connecticut law, pleasure craft must be registered:
    a. based on class.
    b. based on overall length with some exceptions.
    c. if the motor is over 10 H.P.
    d. if capable of propulsion by machinery.

20. Navigation lights on another boat observed at night:
    a. tell you its course and speed.
    b. tell you it's a class A, 1, 2, or 3 boat.
    c. tell you you are meeting, crossing or overtaking it.
    d. tell you which set of rules of the road to apply.

21. A red navigation light is visible through an arc of 10 points or:

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Coastal islands -- a world apart

By Diane Giampa,
Public Participation Coordinator
&
Ron Rozsa,
Senior Environmental Analyst

Only three-tenths of one percent of Connecticut's land is owned by the federal government -- and this is a situation that may soon be changed. This past April, legislation was introduced in Congress that would establish a 160-acre National Wildlife Refuge made up of five Connecticut coastal locations: Chimon and Sheffield Islands off Norwalk, Faulkner's Island near Guilford, Ram Island at the mouth of the Mystic River, and Milford Point. The bill was introduced by U.S. Representative Stewart McKinney and was co-sponsored by the entire Connecticut House delegation. "What is irreplaceable, we must preserve," McKinney said after introducing the legislation.

Just like other coastlines, islands contain fragile resources such as beaches, dunes, rocky shorefronts, uplands and wetlands. But because they are surrounded by water, they are often more difficult for people to reach and they also are more difficult to build on. As a result, they have remained relatively undisturbed and many islands have become refuges for rare wildlife and plants that have been unable to survive along the coastline proper.

Connecticut's coastline is dotted with roughly 143 nearshore islands that make up about 90 miles of mostly undeveloped shoreline. These islands generally fall into one of three categories based on their formation and characteristics. Sandy Point in Stonington is an example of a barrier island. The Thimbles off of Branford's coast are rocky islands, and the Norwalk Islands were formed more than 10,000 years ago by deposits of coarse-textured glacial material.

A coastal barrier island is a sandy deposit created and maintained by both wave action and storm events. It tends to be more or less linear in shape and has a fairly simple landscape. On the shore that faces Long Island Sound, there is a sandy beach with no vegetation. Behind the beach, the ground slopes upward into a sandy ridge or a sand dune. Plants can, however, grow on the dunes, and most often the vegetation will be dominated by American beachgrass (Ammophila breviligulata).

Coastal barriers usually form across the mouth of a cove or an embayment and protect the areas lying behind them from damaging storm waves that originate in Long Island Sound. In the shelter of a barrier island, indispensable ecosystems become established such as tidal wetlands, intertidal flats and eelgrass beds. Although Sandy Point in Stonington is a barrier island which is completely encircled by water, Milford point is an example of a coastal barrier which is joined to the mainland. Ram Island is a particular type of barrier called a tombolo, which in this instance is made up of a pair of rocky islands connected by a sandy barrier.

Connecticut is made of bedrock, and rocky islands are really the tops of submerged bedrock hills -- probably formed millions of years ago -- that have become surrounded by water as the sea level rose. The plant and animal life on rocky islands varies considerably, and has a direct relationship to the size and height of the island itself. A higher island will be less vulnerable to flood damage and can support more life forms while a larger island will allow for a greater diversity of habitat simply because of the greater total acreage. Most rocky islands off Connecticut's coast, however, are relatively small and produce only sparse vegetation or none at all.

The smaller rocky islands are an attractive habitat for colonial seabirds such as common terns, occasionally the rare roseate tern, the rare double-crested cormorant and gulls such as the great black backed and herring gulls. The

Thimble Islands are somewhat larger and support thickets and woods that sometimes contain unusual combinations of plants. The pitch pine evergreen is rarely found along the coast except on the rocky shoreline between Branford and Guilford and on the Thimble Islands. From a distance, the rocky islands covered by their mantle of evergreen woods are reminiscent of the shoreline of Maine.

Islands such as Sheffield, Chimon, Charles and Faulkner were formed long ago when the glaciers moved across the New England landscape and swept up soil, stones and rocks. This material, called "glacial till," was then deposited both on the land and in the Sound as the glacier melted. The deepest deposits of this material formed islands off the coast, and the Norwalk Islands are the greatest concentration of these glacial land formations. Unlike the rocky islands, however, glacial islands are particularly susceptible to natural erosion. Very often, this eroded material is simply redistributed by the waves and currents to form coastal barriers.

One of the unusual geological features of the Norwalk Islands is that the glacial activity and years of erosion have produced "cobble" or "shingle" beaches that are otherwise rare along the Connecticut coast. These shores are made up of round stones that have been worn smooth over time. Concentrations of these glacial islands perform the same function that the coastal barriers do -- they create a sheltered environment behind them.

As long as an island remains relatively undisturbed, it can serve as a haven for plants and wildlife. The least tern once shared the coastal environment with the American Indian and prospered during the summer months, establishing breeding colonies on most of the undeveloped coastal barriers. Today, however, many of the barrier islands have been either overdeveloped or are used as recreational areas and less than a handful of large and successful least tern colonies remain.

Leonard Lee Rue III

Shags or double-crested cormorants.

These remaining colonies are threatened by pedestrian and vehicular traffic (especially dune buggies and motorcycles). A dog running unleashed along the beach can destroy an entire colony by frightening away the small birds, or by trampling their eggs and even eating the nestlings.

Colonies of common terns have increased since the early 1970's, and are found most often on small bedrock islands. But when people use the islands for recreation the bird population suffers. Sometimes the common terns will establish a few small colonies in late May or early June, but within a very short time the areas have been abandoned because the rocks that these birds nest on are used for launching fireworks on the Fourth of July.

The largest and most impressive colony of common terns in the area is located on

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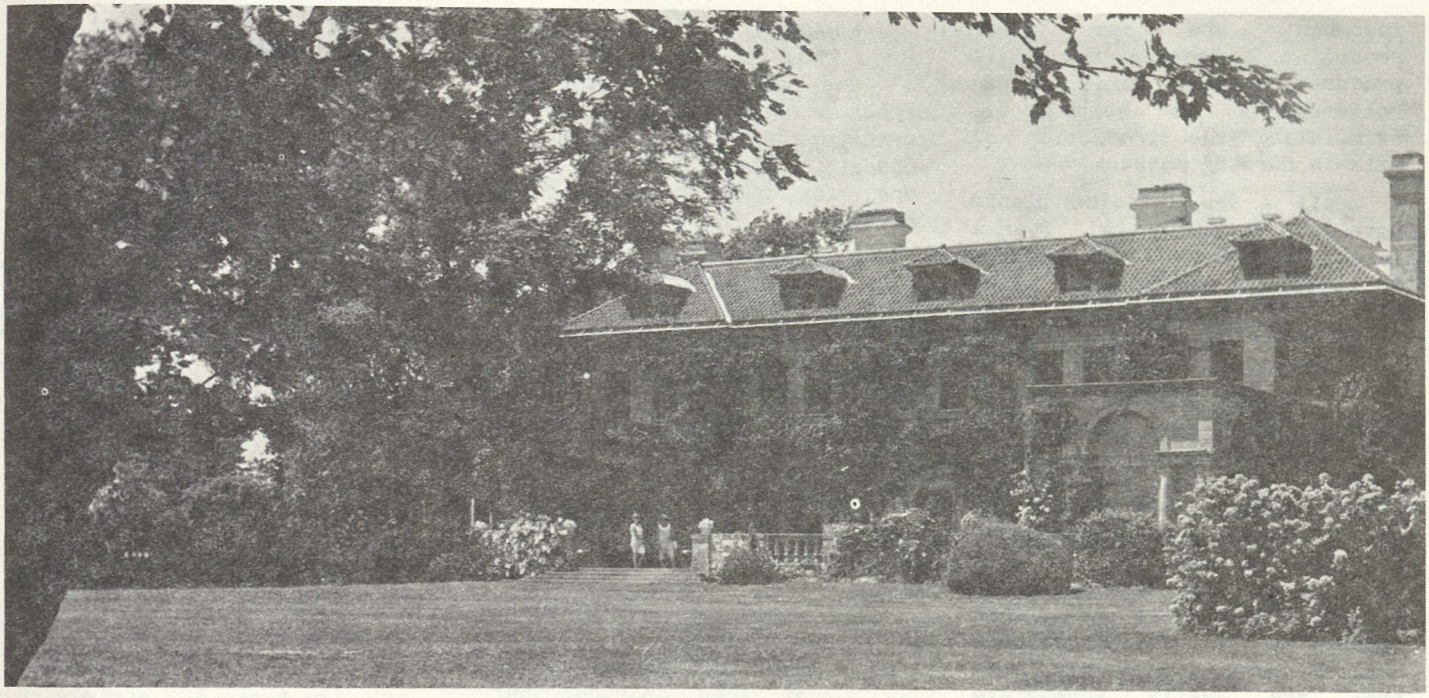

View of the Harkness mansion.

Music

From page 2

For those of you with a taste for gourmet food, dinners prepared by two of the area's finest restaurants, Fine Bouche and Restaurant du Village, will be available at a cost of $10 per person. These must be reserved ahead of time. You are also welcome to bring your own food.

Tickets for the concerts are $10 for chairs under an open tent and $5 for lawn seating (bring your own blanket). For more information please call (203) 442-9199 or write to Summer Music, Inc., 107 Nameaug Avenue, New London, CT 06320. Summer Music is a non-profit, tax exempt organization. ■

Roadside

From page 11

The female and male reproductive parts are on separate plants. The female flower has a large inflated calyx and five curved styles which extend out from the center. The male has a slender calyx and ten stamens.

Evening lychnis is sometimes confused with night flowering catchfly (Silene noctiflora) and bladder campion (Silene cucubulus), but both of these plants have only three styles and the sexes are both in the same flower.

The plant is loosely branched, with stems which are sticky and covered with fine hair. The leaves are opposite. Evening lychnis may grow to a height of up to four feet.

There are some interesting superstitions connected with this plant. One English name is "mother-die." Another is a German name which means "death-plant". This is based on the superstition that your mother will die if you pick this plant. Another superstition is that you will be struck by lightening if you should pick it.

Chicory (Cichorium intybus) is often found growing beside Queen Anne's lace along the very edge of roadsides. The composite blue, or occasionally white, flower consists only of ray flowers which have a two-parted style. These seem to grow up through the dark blue anthers surrounding the style, and are fused. This is best seen with a hand lens.

The flowers are at their brightest in the morning. By noon they often become somewhat ragged. This feature and their blue color is the reason for the common name, ragged sailors. The stalkless flowers appear in clusters of two or three but only a few open at a time, and they only last a day with new flowers opening the next day. The blooming period is from mid-June to October. The leaves are alternate and quite variable. They may be somewhat clasping, toothed, lobed or entire.

Chicory was another of the plants brought to the United States by the early settlers. They cultivated it in their gardens as a source of food. It has long been used as a vegetable and salad plant. Over the years the ground root of chicory has also proved useful on occasion, either as an ingredient or substitute for coffee.

As a medicinal plant, chicory has been highly regarded since the days of the Romans. Various parts of the plant were thought to be helpful in the treatment of liver problems,

insomnia, and for fever reduction. Because the plant produced a milky juice it was believed to be helpful in stimulating the production of milk in nursing mothers.

Only a few roadside plants have been covered here. Over a period of time, it is possible to cover the spectrum of plant life along a roadside. The roadside is a reflection of the surrounding countryside. It includes many species of native trees and shrubs as well as some cultivated ones. Wildflowers, ferns, horsetails, club mosses, liverworts, lichens, fungi and algae also colonize the area.

Some of the advantages of roadside botanizing are that plants can be studied without walking great distances and they are easily accessible without trespassing. This makes the roadside a good place for collecting. Perhaps this may lead to a new interest . . . looking for new species of plants while traveling through the countryside. ■

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Opossums

From page 16

trash heaps, rock piles, or brush piles; buildings may also be used.

The opossum is both a scavenger and an omnivore, feeding primarily at night. Its diet consists mainly of insects, carrion, reptiles, amphibians, birds and their eggs, crustaceans, worms, grubs, berries, fruits, cereal grains, and small mammals.

Benefits

Opossums are more beneficial to humans than harmful, feeding on many types of insects, mice, and voles. Also, the opossum is an important furbearer in Connecticut. In recent years, the opossum harvest in the U.S. has exceeded one million pelts valued at more than $2.5 million annually.

Management of Nuisances

Due to their musky odor, opossums seem to be avoided by predators. Occasionally an opossum will fall prey to a dog, fox, bobcat, large hawk, or owl.

Opossums will sometimes cause problems such as raiding poultry yards, eating limited amounts of corn (in the milk stage), or simply getting into gardens where they will feed on vegetables, apples, grapes, and strawberries.

Two of the best control measures used against unwanted opossums are:

1) Prevention: By properly maintaining poultry yards and houses, owners can keep opossums out. Gardens should be electric-fenced against opossums and other hungry animals.

2) Trapping: Opossums can be easily live-trapped. Set a trap (9x9x32") in the area the animal frequents and bait it with fish, apples, or canned cat or dog food. If there is a chance of catching a skunk, cover the trap with burlap so the animal can be handled safely. Trapped animals should be transported to suitable habitat at least five miles away.

During the regulated trapping season, problem opossums may be harvested by local trappers. Trapping is a valuable tool used to control populations and prevent more nuisance and disease problems.

References and Further Reading

Caslick, J.W. and D.J. Decker 1981. Control of Wildlife Damage in the Home and Garden. Cornell Univ. Coop. Ext. Booklet.

Keefe, F., 1967. The World of the Opossum. Lippincott, Philadelphia. ■

Boating i.q.

From page 18

a. 360 degrees.
b. 105 degrees.
c. 112.5 degrees.
d. 135 degrees.

22. What should you do if you are heading for a particular place and fog sets in?
a. At first sign of fog take a position fix and sounding.
b. check compass course.
c. all of above.

23. In case of an impending disaster, fire, sinking etc., the primary duty of the skipper is to:
a. the U.S. Coast Guard.
b. check the compass course.
c. the passengers
d. the Army Corp of Engineers.

24. A red flag within a white diagonal stripe indicates:
a. do not board.
b. owner is absent.
c. driver below, keep your distance.
d. owner's private ensign.

25. The propeller shaft passes through the hull by means of a:
a. thru hull connection.
b. strut.
c. keelson.
d. stuffing box.

26. How many slack tides are there every day:
a. two.
b. four.
c. six.
d. eight.

27. Tide is:
a. horizontal motion of water.
b. rise and fall of ocean level.
c. flow of water from point to point.
d. all of above.

28. If you are on a course of 220 degreesT., and your speed is 15K. with a current of 3K. at 195 degrees, where will your

position be in one hour?
a. ahead and to right of track.
b. behind and to left of track.
c. ahead and to left of track.
d. on track.

29. In case of collision, accident or other casualty the duty of the operator is:
a. proceed as usual.
b. stop and insure that his vessel is not sinking.
c. to insure the safety of his passengers only.
d. in so far as he can do so without serious danger to his own vessel and persons aboard, to render such assistance as may be practicable and necessary to other persons affected by the collision.

30. Upon returning from seaward, on which side would you pass a red and black or red and green horizontally-banded buoy, with the upper band red:
a. pass to the left of the buoy.
b. pass to the right of the buoy.
c. starboard.
d. port side. ■

Islands

From page 20

Faulkner's Island off the coast of Guilford. This island is also the home of the largest colony of roseate terns in Long Island Sound. Although the island is presently owned by the Coast Guard, through the years proposals have been made to establish a marina there. An activity such as this could result in the demise of one of the most outstanding colonial seabird colonies in Connecticut.

The plant life on coastal islands can be disturbed by natural phenomena as well as by human activities. Severe storms can topple trees, uproot vegetation, or scatter seeds before they can begin to grow. When the island's vegetation is disturbed, weeds spread and the nature of the plants changes so that ultimately fewer and fewer native species survive. Occasionally, plants that are rare in Connecticut such as seacoast angelica and Scotch lovage are found on the coastal islands. These two species more commonly dwell in northern seacoast areas such as Maine and Nova Scotia, but a few of Connecticut's islands and the eastern shores of Long Island are the southernmost spots where they can still be found.

Ultimately, the greatest threat to coastal islands is that they may be overused. And it is ironic that the relative inaccessibility and remoteness of the islands is the reason for their environmental sensitivity and yet at the same time the source of the attraction that draws people to them. ■

coastal area management
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Trophy Fish Awards Program

Since July 1, 1983 the Connecticut DEP Bureau of Fisheries has included marine species in the "Trophy Fish Awards Program." This is not a fishing contest; no prizes will be awarded for the largest fish recorded. However, for the first time in Connecticut's marine sport fishing history, awards of merit will be issued for qualifying marine species and official saltwater state records can be established.

As in the freshwater awards program, qualifying catches will be awarded a bronze pin and a certificate of merit for each trophy fish taken. A silver pin will be awarded for the fifth fish of merit from a single angler and a gold pin for the tenth.

In order to qualify for a saltwater award the following minimum weights are required:

MINIMUM SALTWATER ENTRY SIZES

Striped bass	45 pounds
Bluefish	18 pounds
Weakfish	12 pounds
Blackfish (Tautog)	10 pounds
Black sea bass	4 pounds
Atlantic mackerel	4 pounds
Summer flounder (Fluke)	8 pounds
*Winter flounder (Blackback,Flatfish)	3 pounds
Porgy (Scup)	3 pounds
Cunner	1.5 pounds
*Pollock	25 pounds
Cod	40 pounds
Bonito	8 pounds
Bluefin tuna	400 pounds
*Yellowfin tuna	150 pounds
Albacore	35 pounds
*Blue shark	175 pounds
Mako shark	200 pounds
*White marlin	80 pounds
Blue marlin	100 pounds
Swordfish	100 pounds

*Photograph suitable to provide positive identification required.

Saltwater entries must be caught from shore in Connecticut or from a boat which leaves from or returns to a Connecticut port or launching area. Other rules are identical to those for freshwater award entries. Rules and affidavit forms can be obtained from the DEP Fisheries Bureau in Hartford 566-2287; Marine Fisheries, Waterford 443-0166; Eastern District Office, Marlborough 295-9523; and Western District Office, Harwinton 566-2375. ■

A Hammonasset natural area?

Every year over a million people visit Hammonasset State park. Most of them come on hot summer days to cool off in the surf and sunbathe on the beach. Some come to cast their fishing lines from Meig's Point. But of all these visitors, probably fewer than one in a thousand ever go to see one of the park's most impressive resources -- its salt marshes.

Hammonasset Park has one of the state's largest undeveloped salt marshes. These marshes once lined most of Connecticut's coast, but now they are an endangered habitat. Salt marshes are important in the life cycles of many marine and estuarine animals, including fish and shellfish of commercial value. Salt marshes are also crucial feeding and nesting grounds for several bird species, some of which are uncommon in Connecticut.

The Department of Environmental Protection is currently reviewing a proposal to designate the salt marsh in Hammonasett Park as a natural area preserve. This designation would protect the marsh from development and other destructive actions. The preserve would also include some of the beaches that fringe the marsh and are nesting grounds for two species of rare seabirds.

However, the popular bathing beaches and Meig's Point would not be part of the preserve, and recreational use of those areas would not be affected. Park visitors would still be allowed to visit the preserve but would not be allowed to collect any of the plant or animal life.

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold an informational hearing on the proposal on July 18th in the town of Madison. A formal public hearing will be held on August 22nd. If you have any questions about the proposal or if you would like specific information about the location and time of the hearings, please call Diane Mayerfeld at 566-3540 or Lorraine Fadden at 566-5348. ■

Governor William O'Neill conveys birthday greetings to Smokey the Bear. Governor O'Neill designated May 31, 1984 as Connecticut Forest Fire Prevention Day in honor of Smokey's 40th birthday.

Mary Beth Phelps

DEP Citizens' Bulletin
State of Connecticut
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